MSC MONITOR

Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College

Volume 1, Issue 2 | Palmer, Alaska | July 19, 1995

Governor Approves Funds

Governor Tony Knowles has approved a total of $500,000.00 for the completion of the Machetanz Building here at Mat-Su College. According to Director Glenn Massay, this figure is half of what the college was asking for, however, it will be enough to "open the building and make significant progress on the bridge". It is not certain when the bridge will be complete. The bridge will be a covered walkway connecting the Machetanz Building to Snodgrass Hall allowing a warmer and safer trek in the winter time.

The Machetanz Building contains the new art rooms which will be used for the first time this fall. Five new classrooms will be available for use, and the daycare should be open by the Spring semester.

This issue: Big brother is coming to town, Fun in the mud, The race is on, and more...

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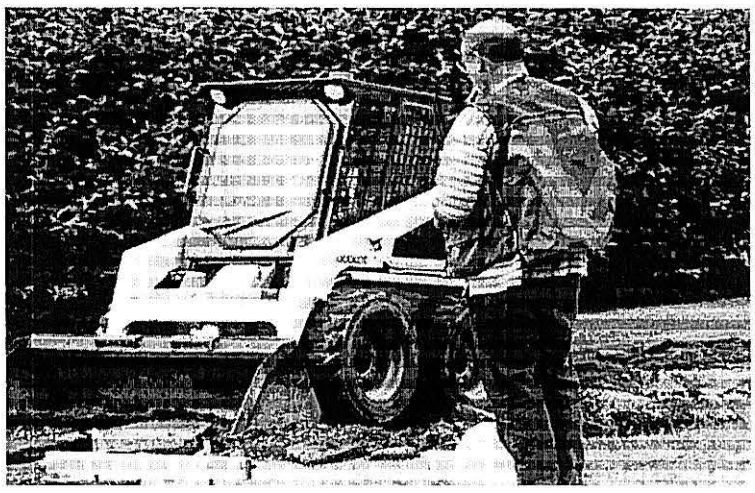
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!!!

Campus Information & How-To's Inside This Issue

Mike clears way for the new sidewalk while Tim supervises.



Campus Improvements

Our maintenance/physical plant team, consisting of Tim Kimbrough, Eric Blomskog, Mike Kelley, Brian Pinney, Chris Irsik, and John Neufeldt, have been quite busy over the summer months making noticeable improvements in our campus' appearance. They have painted buildings, a truck, and new stripes on the road to keep us in line. They have also planted more greenery making our campus a pleasure to look at. One of their large projects has been the construction of a new sidewalk leading from the Cafeteria exit over to Snodgrass Hall. This sidewalk will provide a safer walking area for students until the completion of the covered walkway from the Machetanz Building.

From the Editor...

The fall semester is fast approaching and with it comes not only new and exciting things to learn, but a chance to have a voice. Yes, you can be heard. But how, you may ask. How can you let the administration, the chancellor, even the legislators know how you feel? How can you decide when and how your student fees will be spent? How will you find out what is happening and have an effect on it? It's quite simple really. You get involved in your student government. MSC is a small campus, but it has made itself heard through student government. Those who have been involved in the past have put MSC on the map, and now it is your turn. It doesn't matter if you want to make big changes or little ones, every voice counts. Throughout the coming year there will be activities and committees, such as the Float Committee for the state fair, the Christmas Ball, barbecues, dances, concerts, legislative affairs, etc., etc., etc. Perhaps you're one of those who complained last year about how your student fees were spent; well don't just sit and complain this year, do something about it! Student government meets every other week throughout the school year, usually on Fridays, on campus. Please, take the time to see what it's about. You can choose how much, or how little, you want to be involved. But don't, don't sit there on your duff and complain if you don't know what is happening, or are simply too lazy to do something about it!

...Amy J. Menerey

Appreciation Dinner Held

The Human Services Department held a Field Instructors Appreciation Dinner on June 21st in the cafeteria. The dinner is put on every year by the students to show their appreciation to field instructors who receive no pay for their instruction and support. The Human Services Department has been in existence for 14 years.

NOTICE

Barb Carney from Financial Aid sends a reminder to students to make sure they have all their paperwork in!

Enter Your Goodies at the Alaska State Fair

The state fair, which begins the last week in August, will be accepting entries August 18th & 19th. Exhibitor's Guides, stating times, classifications and rules, are available at most craft stores around town. The fair is a fun way to show off your hidden talents and now is the time to start preparing those special projects for show. C'mon, see you at the fair!

Student Government News

The next student government meeting will be held Friday, July 21st, at 4:30 p.m. in OLB 215. New committees are forming, senator seats are open. Currently in the works: committee to build MSC float for the Alaska State Fair Parade. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm, and talent; get involved!

MSC Monitor Staff

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	Sandi Pinkston
	Cynthia Hawkins
	Joan Tower

The Monitor welcomes guest columnists and letters to the editor. Submissions will be printed according to space available, and must include name & phone number for verification. These can be placed in the Monitor hall mailbox, dropped in the Student Govt./Monitor office or mailed to the MSC Monitor, P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, grammar, spelling and libel.

New Bulletins Out

The new Matanuska-Susitna College 1995-1997 bulletin is out. This is your student handbook and guide. The bulletin offers everything you will ever need to know about Mat-Su College. Please pick one up and take the time to read it, you'll be amazed at what you'll learn!

UA Board of Regents President Elected to Oversee Harvard

by Shelia Keyser

The University of Alaska has announced that Sharon D. Gagnon, president of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, has been elected to Harvard University's Board of Overseers. The thirty member board evaluates the effectiveness of faculties and institutions within Harvard and provide them with counsel, while keeping informed about teaching, research, and administration within Harvard and at other institutions. Dr. Gagnon was one of five persons elected this year. She states that she will remain as the President of the UA Board of Regents, and hopes that her experience with each will add something to the other.

Welcome to the Mat-Zoo

by Shelia Keyser

As the new Administrative Clerk in Registration and Admissions, Ellen Godfrey joins the MSC staff replacing Doug Green who has left us to pursue a Masters Degree at APU.

Ellen attended Business College in Spokane, Washington, and has been living in Alaska since 1974. She previously worked for the State Department of Agriculture. Ellen lives in Palmer with her husband, has four children, and two grandchildren. She is very active in the community and her church.

The staff of MSC Monitor welcomes Ellen. We are sure that your smiling face will soon become familiar to everyone.

Director Search Update

Shelia Keyser, a member of the Director Search Committee, informs us that they are still working hard to find a replacement for Director Glenn Massay, who leaves us in August. Their goal is to narrow down the applicants to five qualifiying individuals' names to submit to Chancellor Gorsuch for the final selection.

A Good Cause to Unroll

by Amy Menerey

Being a single parent is tough, so many of us know that personally. I am a single mom, but, as I tell my kids, in our house I'm the mom and the dad all rolled into one package. Most of the time this works for me. However, having two boys, there have been times when I have wished that I could offer a different sort of role model than "super mom".

When I first moved to the valley in 1990 I was newly divorced and wasn't sure how to be a single parent, let alone a "mom and a dad all rolled into one". I went in search of help. but, like so many others, I found that the demand for help for single parents in the valley is high, and the supply is low.

One of the places I contacted in search of role models was Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Anchorage. In 1990 I was told that there were no services in the valley. This is about to change.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a national organization funded largely in part by United Way. Through volunteers they provide adult role models and companionship for children ages six to eighteen, largely those from single parent families. These volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters help give children a mentor, someone to connect with outside the family. Through this connection they are able to develop self-esteem, a positive self image, knowledge of opportunities for a successful life, and hope. These are the things which we all intend for our children, yet are often difficult to accomplish alone.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization recently celebrated their 90th anniversary. The Anchorage office has been very successful with their program. In the last four years, with 114 matches, they have only had three kids in trouble with the law, one who got pregnant, and not a single kid who dropped out of school. That's quite an accomplishment in this day and age. I would like to see some of this success here in the valley. And so would Peggy Hogarty.

Peggy is a single parent, who, like myself, wanted a role model for her son. She wants him to experience the positive influence a Big Brother could provide. She, along with a handful of other valley parents, is working to organize a branch of Big Brothers/Big Sisters out here. They are in need of volunteers to help organize and raise funds, and eventually to develop a Mat-Su branch that would provide service for all of the valley, from Palmer to Talkeetna.

This is a program that can have great influence on our children, I, for one, would love the opportunity to unroll once in a while, and just be a mom.

Anyone interested in volunteering to organize, or as a Big Brother or Big Sister, contact Peggy Hogarty 376-7613.

The Star-Spangled Banner

by Sandi Pinkston

Most of us can't sing it. Too many of us don't know all the words. Very few of us know its entire story. Our national anthem is just a symbol, a poem put to music. This poem became our national anthem by accident. It represents a country that has had its ups and downs, politically and economically; a country with its own "good" guys and "bad" guys. Many wrongs have been done in the name of the freedom it "so proudly hails." But so have many more rights. I would venture to bet that, secretly, this challenge to the vocal chords can still stir the heart and bring moisture to the eyes to many more than are willing to admit. The words that Francis Scott Key wrote in 1814 still ring true today. Why? His words were simple, they were telling the story of common men and women standing firm in the face of extraordinary odds.

It was the War of 1812. Things were going bad for the fledgling United States of America. By the summer of 1814, British troops had landed in the Chesapeake Bay area. August, 1814 saw the Americans sorely defeated in the Battle of Bladenburg. Casualties were high, Washington D.C. was occupied and then burned, including the capital building. The British troops withdrew and sailed to attack Baltimore, during which a physician friend of Key's was taken prisoner. By September 13, 1814, 34 year-old lawyer-poet, Francis Scott Key had arranged the release of his friend. They were detained aboard a British prisoner-exchange ship as the bombardment of Fort McHenry, one of the American forts guarding Baltimore, began. Key watched from the ship's deck. The following morning, Key used his telescope to inspect the damage and saw"by the dawn's early light" that "our flag was still there". The sight so inspire him that he used the back of an old letter in his pocket to quickly scribble the words that eventually became our national anthem. It was an immediate hit in Baltimore where it was issued as a handbill titled "Defence of Fort McHenry" and then reprinted elsewhere. (Congress adopted it as the official national anthem in 1931).

Many years later in an interview, Key said: "I saw the flag of my country waving over a city-the strength and pride of my native state-a city devoted to plunder and desolution by its assailants. I witnessed the preparation for its assaults. I saw the array of its enemies as they advanced to the attack. I heard the sound of battle; the noise of the conflict fell upon my listening ear, and told me that 'the brave and the free' had met the invaders".

One hundred and eighty-one years ago these words were set to paper. The writer and the inspiring defenders of For McHenry are long gone to dust. But the truth they speak needs to be remembered. The odds are still against us. The enemy still seems to be winning on every front. But it's time to take a stand and hold firm.

On the 4th of July every year, we celebrate the birth of our nation. Maybe we should also use it as a yearly reminder of the reasons our country exists and take a firm stand for what is right. Maybe we will inspire some modern poet to write "Let the praise..be given, not to me, who only did what I could not help doing, not to the writer, but to the inspirers of the song"!

Read the words so quickly scribbled, find inspiration anew, and stand firm. It may sound corny and hokey, but America, long may she wave, a bit thread bare and dented, is the only home we have.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

by Francis Scott Key
September 1814

Oh say! can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say! does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream.
Tis the Star-Spangled Banner. O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footstep's pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and war's desolation
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust".
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Alaska State Shootout Stock Car Races Underway

The first weekend of the Alaska State Shootout was held June 17th and 18th at Capitol Speedway in Willow. Seventy-five racers competed in the first two of six race days to determine the best in the state.

Capitol Speedway is one of three oval dirt tracks in Alaska where local racers fulfill the "need for speed". Mitchell Raceway in Fairbanks and Twin City Raceway in Kenai make up the other two. Each year racers compete through the season for local points to determine top class winners at their track. Shootout points are separate from local points making it possible for someone to obtain standing at a state level, regardless of, or in addition to, their local standing.

The Alaska State Shootout will continue July 22nd & 23rd in Fairbanks, and will conclude August 5th & 6th in Kenai. The current standings are as follows:
Sportsman: 1st-Mike Hanson (F), 2nd-Steve Hust (W), 3rd-Jake Aprill (W).
Micro-sprints: 1st-Squeeks O'Conner (W), 2nd-Lon Lyford (w), 3rd-Larry Marshall (W).
Sprints: 1st-Jackie McGahan (K), 2nd-Mike Zipay (W), 3rd-Ernie Seager (F).
Mini-Stock: 1st-Art Fox (W), 2nd-Bill Mains (W), 3rd-Randy Renkert (F).
Hobby Stock: 1st-Moe Frost (W), 2nd-Richie Christensen (W), 3rd-Brett Amundson (K).
ProStock: 1st-Tony Solseng (W), 2nd-Warren Vincent (K), 3rd-Rick Daniels (W)

Big Dogs are Top Dog in the Mud

The 6th Annual Big Lake Regatta Mud Volleyball playoffs resulted in a slimy, sunburned win for the Big Dog team. The team, consisting of Jason Schaefer, Christina Mortimer, Jodi Swift, Byron Peck, Dawn Allam, and captain Tavis Allam defeated the Sadlers/Gary Kings team after a long, grueling day in the mud.

There were 24 teams in the double elimination playoffs which were held at the "Y" in Big Lake July 9th. The event, which was part of the Big Lake Regatta, an annual local festival, was sponsored by the Big Lake Lions.

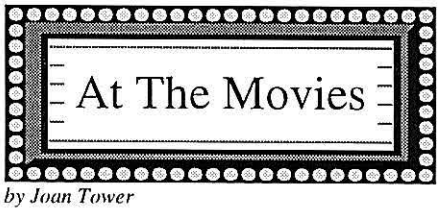
Finishing third in the playoffs were Code Blue, led by Patsy Fagnani, followed by the Mud Pigs with captain Lorena Knapp in fourth, Houston Lodge with captain Scott in fifth place, and Jonnae Dunkel leading Great Northern Engineering's team into a hard fought sixth place.

In other Regatta events: Mark Button took first place out of 19 players in the Cribbage Tournament held at the Hangar Lounge.

In the Watercross snowmobile races Adam Spersta placed first in the 600cc Drag division, followed by Troy Graham in second, Eric Bruggerman in third. In the 601-open Drag division Jack Jaunbral placed first, Mike Eder took second, and Stewart Sterling finished third.

In the Speed Ovals, Mike Eder placed first, Eric Bruggerman placed second, and Stewart Sterling took third.

The Watercross snowmobile races continue throughout the summer, and are fun to watch. They are especially exciting for your out of state guests who, like many of us who actually live here, find it hard to believe that they race snowmachines on the water. Contact the Klondike Inn for dates and times.



by Joan Tower

Accompanying a two and a half and a three year old to see Casper wasn't the greatest plan. The animation was so life-like that the movie was scary to them. After a half hour we switched to Pocohantas, however, there wasn't enough action to keep their attention. I would recommend both movies for children five and up, especially the child side of an adult. Both movies used adult humor and had good plots; I'll wait for the videos to see the endings.

Cartoonists!

The MSC Monitor is still looking for talented humor to grace our pages. Please leave an example of your work in the mailbox, or at the office!

That Means You!!!

Dear Julie,

I am a nurse and want to know if I can take classes at Mat-Su College?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

The course catalog is the best source of information on what is currently being offered at Mat-Su College. If you need upper level classes you may need to go to UAA in Anchorage. For more guidance, check with Toni or Al in the counseling center. Good Luck!

Julie

To write to "Dear Julie", drop your letter off at the Student Government/Monitor office, or leave in the Monitor mailbox in the hall by the registration desk. "Julie" is a Human Services Major studying paraprofessional counseling.

Positions Open
MSC Monitor
Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College

Copy Editor: Proofread all copy for errors in spelling, grammar, and research. Assist editor and assistant editor with final production of paper.

Art Reporter: Report on all art related activities at Mat-Su and UAA, as well as upcoming related outside events; reveiws and criticism, cover art club meetings. Must be involved in the arts, any medium, with knowledge of basic principles of method and design.

Student Government Reporter: Report on all aspects of student government: meetings, committees, etc. Must attend meetings regularly, cannot hold a position.

Guest Columnists: Anyone wishing to report on any of the above subjects, or any other subject of interest, may do so as a guest columnist.

Submit applications or articles to Student Gov't/Monitor office, leave in our box, or write via VAX, PSAJM.

FOR SALE

Math 105 text...$35.00
Geol 115 text...$35.00
Call Lori 746-5404

Your Ad Here! FREE!!!

Hitch...$20.00
Exercise Bike...$10.00
Call Amy 376-7752

Fishin' Truck
1976 Chevy Crewcab
w/camper shell
Runs good, body rough
$750.00
Call Tim 373-7941

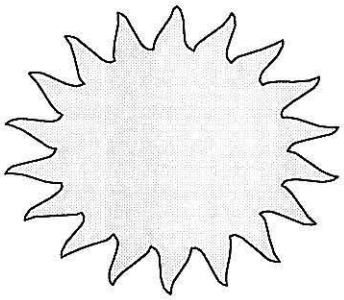
Kenmore Washer
$185.00
Peggy 376-7613

ATTENTION NEW STUDENTS:

GOT A PROBLEM, DON'T KNOW WHERE SOMETHING IS? ASK AN OLD STUDENT. NOT ME!!! I'M NOT THAT OLD!

Weather Report:

It was Sunny and warm when I wrote this. Tomorrow, I dunno.



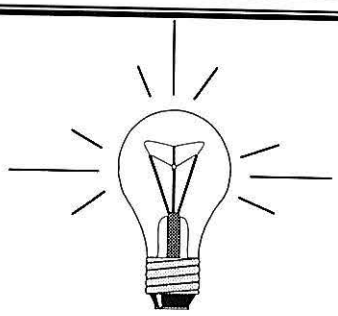
Looking for a Job?

MSC often has on campus positions available to students. Applications are at the business office, and current openings are posted outside the business office exit. You could earn where you learn!

COMPUTER INPUT

by Amy Menerey

We currently have three computer labs on campus: the IBM lab, the Mac lab, and the VAX lab. This year the lab fee for using the labs has been raised from $25.00 to $30.00 per semester. This is a one time fee for the use of the labs. Also new this year, anyone taking a computer class will be automatically charged the computer lab fee. However, this charge will only be applied once per semester regardless of the number of computer classes taken within the semester. This increase is made necessary by continuing changes in technology. To allow this campus to remain current, upgrades are constantly being made. Carl Hereford, otherwise known as "The Computer Guy", has been working on the computer network system, located in classroom #116, to speed up the lag time when students are working on the same thing. Also, there are 5 new Macs in the Mac lab, a new laser printer in the IBM lab and 10 lines are now available in the VAX lab. As a special note: VAX accounts are free to all students, just see a lab aide to fill out the necessary papers.



TIDBITS

*There are local newspapers for student use in the Cafeteria, provided to you by your Student Government.

*There is a student mail board in the hallway outside the IBM lab.

*There is a coin operated copy machine for student use located in the library.

*Lockers are available at the end of the Kerttula and Okeson buildings, just bring your own lock.

*Student Government News is posted on the bulletin boards outside the cafeteria, and on the electronic marquee outside the office.

*MSC Monitor news is posted outside the Student Gov't./Monitor office.

*There are typewriters available in Snodgrass Hall, see the receptionist.

*Vending machines are located in the Kerttula Building and Snodgrass Hall.

*There is a scanner available in the VAX lab.

*Student requests for new classes are on the wall outside of Financial Aid.

*The Student Gov't./Monitor mailbox is located in hall across from registration.

OKESON LIBRARY OPEN TO ALL

Mat-Su College's Okeson Library is packed with information for students and non-students alike. MSC Gnosis library cards are available to everyone; and returning students, faculty, and staff will need to update their card at the beginning of the Fall semester. New students please bring your registration papers or student I.D. card with you.

Available for use are the Infotrac, the SLED, the AV Viewing room, and study carrels for privacy. For anyone who is not familiar with them, the Infotrac computer accesses magazine articles, many of them in full, which can be printed without the need to find the actual magazine. The SLED is used to access library resources throughout the United States. Both of these, with the various reference material readily available, are invaluable for doing research for classes or self-interest.

There is also an AV Viewing room filled with information such as maps and assorted instructional videos. Televisions, with VCR's and headphones, are available for use without disturbing those who may be studying. Instructor Evaluation Forms, which every student fills out at the end of a semester, are in this room and can be read by anyone wishing to find out more about a particular instructor.

The librarians recommend that anyone wishing to learn more about the use of these materials take the Library Skills Class, LS 111, or the Classroom Success Skills Class, English 100B.

Survival At its Best

by Joan Tower

One of the best decisions I made before starting my freshman year was to take the Classroom Success Skills Class. It's a three day class worth one credit and is well worth the cost. You will get information on how to study, pick your instructors, and the benefits of class attendance, among other pertinent information. I finished my year with a 3.8 GPA and give credit to this class for the info I obtained. College can feel like a jungle for those who are entering for the first time, or those who are returning to school after a long absence. This class can teach you how to survive in that jungle.